

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01048 260741Z

12

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 260704Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7077

S E C R E T AMMAN 1048

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS,JO, SA,US

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 1034,AMMAN 1047

1 DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTICED THE AMBIGUITY PRESENT IN PRINCE DAHD'S LETTER TO KING HUSSEIN REFTELS) CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF GOING TO OTHER SOURCES TO PROCURE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. THE LANGUAGE IN QUOTES IS FROM KING'S TRANSLATION OF THE ARABIC OF THE ORIGINAL FOR ME, NOT FROM THE ORIGINAL TEXT ITSELF WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN, I HASTEN TO ADD THAT IN THE PAST KING'S TRANSLATIONS HAVE BEEN ACCURATE AS FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHECK THEM.

2. WHILE THE SAUDI LETTER SEEMS TO POSE NO OBJECTION TO THE JORDANIANS

GOING TO OTHER SOURCES IF THEY CANNOT WORK OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE US SIDE, OUR READING DOES NOT INDICATE CLEARLY THAT SAUDIS ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THE FUNDS (\$300M) AVAILABLE IN THAT INSTANCE. THAT POSSIBILITY IS ONE ALTERNATIVE. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE READING IS THAT SAUDIS AGREE THAT JORDAN COULD GO TO OTHER SOURCES (BUT NOT NECESSARILY WITH AN IRON CLAD COMMITMENT OF SAUDI MONEY). SINCE THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT POINT AND SINCE KING SEEMS TO BE OPERATING UNDER ASSUMPTION THAT HE WILL HAVE SAUDI MONEY TO DO WITH AS HE WISHES, I WILL CHECK THE POINT WITH RIFAI WHEN I SEE HIM, HOPEFULLY MORNING FEBRUARY 27.

PICKERING

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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